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Mattoon First Christian Church

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Remarks from Pastor Steve

New Year = New Ministries @ First

If you have been missing church, you are missing some exciting opportunities for spiritual growth and connection. Please plug in, we are the move. Invite friends to a church that invests 10% of its income into missions, a church that exists to love God and love people.

We have worked very hard to promote and plan our first "rib cook." Ribs will be ready for sale Tuesday the 12th and Thursday the 14th from 10-6 pm. They will be ready to eat or freeze and priced at \$18 per rack. Taste testing will be offered from our drive-thru by Terri and Jeff Kearny from Hickory Grove BBQ products. They will be offering their barbeque sauce for sale with the ribs at \$5 per bottle. The ribs are delicious slow cooked with only rub but if you wish to add to the taste, Hickory Grove products are wonderful.

Did you know that 30 to as much as 40% of Coles County are single? That's right, the potential for a church to reach this demographic group is within our reach. We have established a new singles ministry. Our goal is to provide a Singles Ministry for all age groups; for men and women who have never married, widowed or divorced. This group will focus on making new friends, having fun and Christian fellowship with others. Our singles group is not a dating service.

The Singles @ First Schedule looks like this...

Sunday, January 31st from 11:45-1:00 pm a Fast Food Sunday

Meet at Freddy's, buy your own lunch and meet some new friends.

Friday, February 5th from 6-8:00 pm a Movie Night

Watch a good movie in Campbell Hall, fellowship and fun.

Bring a 2-liter of pop and popcorn will be provided.

Saturday, February 13th 6:30 pm Valentine's Party

Meet at the American Legion for dinner (rib-eye or shrimp for \$10 or surf and turf for \$15) followed by a dance with the band "Radio Kings."

Sunday, February 28th 11:45-1:00 pm a Fast Food Sunday

Meet at Wendy's, buy your own lunch and meet some new friends.

The question I would like to ask you today is, would you like to see baptisms and see FCC grow? If so, please support the Singles @ First ministry. Here's how:
*If you are single attend and meet some new friends, *Tell your co-workers about our new Singles Group and invite them, *If you live in a high traffic area please get a yard sign from the narthex and place it in your yard, *Give an extra \$2 per week for a special gift for the Singles Ministry and *Pray for the success of our new Singles @ First Ministry.

If we can make this a success, I will put in a Divorce Recovery ministry for adults and children in the near future. This will become a feeder for our newest ministry. As it grows it will naturally divide into mature, middle and young adults. The potential with your support is huge. Will you join or support us?

May God Enlarge His Territory, *Pastor Steve*



Members of FCC are invited to apply for the **Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial Scholarship**. Scholarships are awarded to members who attend U of I in Urbana-Champaign or EIU in Charleston or Lincoln Christian University in Lincoln (Christian ministry majors only). Recipients must be enrolled in a course of study that culminates in a bachelor's or advanced degree in one of the following fields: Engineering or sciences, Medical sciences or services, Christian ministry or Business.

To complete an application online after January 11th, visit <https://pbaf.org/scholarships/scholarship-application-process/> and click on *Laura Catherine Van Gundy Young Memorial*. Scholarship information including an application are available from the church office also. Students currently receiving the Young scholarship do not have to submit a new application. The application and documents are due in the offices of Permian Basin Area Foundation by March 31st. For more information, contact Vicki Rice at 432-617-3213.

Church Cookbook Add

If you purchased a church cookbook please make this addition: page 107 for the Coca-Cola Cake please add 1 1/3 cups of sugar.

Baby Girl

Congratulations to Mitch and Cait Wilson on the birth of their baby girl, Olivia Rose, born on December 16th.



Congratulations to grandparents Dirk and Sheila Wilson, great grandma Carol Wilson and great-great grandma Vera Tooley. With Ms. Olivia this makes 5 generations!

Attention All Ladies



All ladies are invited to come play Bingo in Campbell Hall on Saturday, January 23rd from 1:00-3:00 pm. Snacks will be provided and prizes awarded.

H&R Block Donation

If you get your taxes prepared at H&R Block and say you were referred by the First Christian Church they will donate \$20 towards the Youth Haiti Mission Trip!

Serving Communion

Sunday, January 10

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Dan Cunningham, Bill Daily, Tom Dickerson, Don Inman

10:30 am — Dave Whitley (captain), Amy Maninfor, Nick Maninfor, Bob Morgan, Dolo Wishard, Neil Wofford

Sunday, January 17

8:30 am — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Jim Long, Steve Lane, Jack Little, Gene Swearingen

10:30 am — Donica Brand (captain), Max Betty, Chanon Fine, Dennis Goings, John Holmes, Jeff Maninfor

Sweetheart Dinner



Mark your calendars for the annual Sweetheart Dinner on Saturday, February 13th. More details to come soon.

Church Life

Friday, January 8

6 pm Singles @ First Game Night

Sunday, January 10

8 am Prayer with Elders in the Sanctuary

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

5-7 FROG and 6-8 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, January 11

No Staff Meeting

6 pm Trustees Meeting

7 pm Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 12

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room

10 am—6 pm Baby Back Ribs Drive-Thru Open

Wednesday, January 13

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program

Thursday, January 14

10 am—6 pm Baby Back Ribs Drive-Thru Open

6 pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Sunday, January 17

8 am Prayer with the Elders in the sanctuary

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

5-7 pm FROG and 6-8 pm ROCK Meetings

Monday, January 18

office closed in observance of Martin Luther King's B-day

7 pm Christian Education Meeting

Tuesday, January 19

7 am Prayer Time in the UIC room

Wednesday, January 20

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group

5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

6 pm Chancel Choir Practice

6 pm Mid-Week Outlet Program



Thank You Note



Thank you to Steve Huckaba and Tom Dickerson for building a wheel chair ramp, the Discovery Class for the Christmas caroling and Paul Weber and Steve Morgan for helping to move furniture at the house. All these acts of kindness were truly appreciated.

Evelyn Horn and Debbie Shaw



The Building Fund balance: \$222,305.30

News from Paul

Hey FCC,

It is already 2016. WOW! Where did the years 2000-2015 go? While I sit at my desk to type this blog for the newsletter, I can see the sun shining through the trees void of leaves and out across the yard of green grass. It sure is nice to have a great sunny day even if it is a little chilly out there. Not too chilly for a motorcycle ride though. Yep, I went on a ride with our *Christian Motorcyclists Association* chapter *Wings of Eagles* to Tuscola for lunch at the Pizza Hut. Miss Evelyn rode in a vehicle though (she is smarter than me on some things). We had a good time and the pizza and pasta were sure good to warm me up! In case you are wondering, the windows on the house are closed. I did however, have the curtains on a window open the other day (unbeknownst to Miss Evelyn). She replies with the usual "DAGUMMIT, why do you have these curtains open!? It's dark outside and people can see in here!" In short order I replied with, "So everyone can see what I have to deal with!" We have a great understanding in our marriage. We understand that neither one of us understands the other (on some things). I would like to thank everyone for the kind words about these blogs I write for the newsletters. More than one person has told me they enjoy reading them and how it helps bring a smile to their face. One lady even told me she shares them where she works. I do not consider myself anything great as for my writing skills because it is not about me. I am just a regular Joe who tries to make people laugh through what God blesses me with in my style of humor. Hopefully you have found some humor along with a serious side to what I write. As with most years, 2015 had its ups and downs, and I look forward to 2016. It has been great to get to know more of you at FCC and I look forward to getting to know many more. There are far too many people for me to mention individually in this blog, but I would like to thank everyone who has helped Evelyn and I feel God's love with your kindness. There are many things to look forward to in 2016 at FCC and I hope you are buckled up and ready to roll! Seize the day and use it for His glory. By doing so you will see God working in your life because He tells us, "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13). Until next time boys and girls; dress warm, stay out of trouble and don't talk to strangers (especially if they are stranger than me).
In His Service, *Paul Weber*

Church Attendance

Dec. 20th: Traditional: 149, Contemporary: 87 = 236

Dec. 27th: Traditional: 96, Contemporary: 74 = 170

Jan. 3rd: Traditional: 109, Contemporary: 85 = 194